

**STATE OF TENNESSEE**

**PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 578**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 2249**

**By Representatives Fincher, Mike Turner, Hardaway, Coley**

**Substituted for: Senate Bill No. 2236**

**By Senator Jackson**

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4; Title 8; Title 16; Title 33; Title 38; Title 39; Title 40; Title 49; Title 54; Title 55 and Title 65, relative to arrests and conviction records.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 16, Chapter 10, Part 2, is amended by adding the following new section thereto:

§ 16-10-213.

(a) For purposes of this section:

(1) "Adjudication as a mental defective or adjudicated as a mental defective" means:

(A) A determination by a court in this state that a person, as a result of marked subnormal intelligence, mental illness, incompetency, condition or disease:

(i) Is a danger to such person or to others;

or

(ii) Lacks the ability to contract or manage such person's own affairs due to mental defect;

(B) A finding of insanity by a court in a criminal proceeding; or

(C) A finding that a person is incompetent to stand trial or is found not guilty by reason of insanity pursuant to 50a and 72b of the Uniform Code of Military Justice, codified in 10 U.S.C. §§ 850a, 876b;

(2) "Judicial commitment to a mental institution" means a judicially ordered involuntary admission to a private or state hospital or treatment resource in proceedings conducted pursuant to title 33, chapter 6 or title 33, chapter 7;

(3) "Mental institution" means a mental health facility, mental hospital, sanitarium, psychiatric facility, and any other facility that provides diagnoses by a licensed professional of mental retardation or mental illness, including but not limited to, a psychiatric ward in a general hospital; and

(4) "Treatment resource" means any public or private facility, service, or program providing treatment or rehabilitation services for mental illness or serious emotional disturbance, including, but not limited to, detoxification centers, hospitals, community mental health centers, clinics or programs, halfway houses, and rehabilitation centers.

(b) Those circuit courts and criminal courts wherein commitments to a mental institution are ordered pursuant to title 33, chapter 6 or title 33, chapter 7 or persons are adjudicated as mental defective shall enter a standing and continuing order instructing the clerk to collect and report January 1, April 1, July 1, and October 1 of every year beginning January 1, 2010, information described in subsection (c) regarding individuals who have been adjudicated as a mental defective or judicially committed to a mental institution for the purposes of complying with the NICS Improvement Amendments Act of 2007, Public Law 110-180, as enacted and as may be amended in the future.

(c) The following information shall be collected and reported to the federal bureau of investigation-NICS Index and the department of safety, pursuant to subsection (b):

(1) Complete name and all aliases of the individual judicially committed or adjudicated as a mental defective, including, but not limited to, any names that the individual may have had or currently has by reason of marriage or otherwise;

(2) Case or docket number of the judicial commitment or the adjudication as a mental defective;

(3) Date judicial commitment ordered or adjudication as a mental defective was made;

(4) Private or state hospital or treatment resource to which the individual was judicially committed; and

(5) Date of birth of the individual judicially committed or adjudicated as a mental defective, if such information has been provided to the clerk.

(d) The information in subdivisions (c)(1) through (c)(5) above, the confidentiality of which is protected by other statutes or regulations, shall be maintained as confidential and not subject to public inspection pursuant to the provisions of such statutes or regulations, except for such

use as may be necessary in the conduct of any proceedings pursuant to §§ 39-17-1316, 39-17-1353 and 39-17-1354.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 16, Chapter 11, Part 2, is amended by adding the following new section thereto:

§ 16-11-206.

(a) For purposes of this section:

(1) "Adjudication as a mental defective or adjudicated as a mental defective" means:

(A) A determination by a court in this state that a person, as a result of marked subnormal intelligence, mental illness, incompetency, condition or disease:

(i) Is a danger to such person or to others;  
or

(ii) Lacks the ability to contract or manage such person's own affairs due to mental defect;

(B) A finding of insanity by a court in a criminal proceeding; or

(C) A finding that a person is incompetent to stand trial or is found not guilty by reason of insanity pursuant to 50a and 72b of the Uniform Code of Military Justice, codified in 10 U.S.C. §§ 850a, 876b;

(2) "Judicial commitment to a mental institution" means a judicially ordered involuntary admission to a private or state hospital or treatment resource in proceedings conducted pursuant to title 33, chapter 6 or title 33, chapter 7;

(3) "Mental institution" means a mental health facility, mental hospital, sanitarium, psychiatric facility, and any other facility that provides diagnoses by a licensed professional of mental retardation or mental illness, including but not limited to, a psychiatric ward in a general hospital; and

(4) "Treatment resource" means any public or private facility, service, or program providing treatment or rehabilitation services for mental illness or serious emotional disturbance, including, but not limited to, detoxification centers, hospitals, community mental health centers, clinics or programs, halfway houses, and rehabilitation centers.

(b) Those chancery courts wherein commitments to a mental institution are ordered pursuant to title 33, chapter 6 or title 33, chapter 7

or persons are adjudicated as a mental defective shall enter a standing and continuing order instructing the clerk to collect and report January 1, April 1, July 1, and October 1 of every year beginning January 1, 2010, information described in subsection (c) regarding individuals who have been adjudicated as a mental defective or judicially committed to a mental institution for the purposes of complying with the NICS Improvement Amendments Act of 2007, Public Law 110-180, as enacted and as may be amended in the future.

(c) The following information shall be collected and reported to the federal bureau of investigation-NICS Index and the department of safety, pursuant to subsection (b):

(1) Complete name and all aliases of the individual judicially committed or adjudicated as a mental defective, including, but not limited to, any names that the individual may have had or currently has by reason of marriage or otherwise;

(2) Case or docket number of the judicial commitment or the adjudication as a mental defective;

(3) Date judicial commitment ordered or adjudication as a mental defective was made;

(4) Private or state hospital or treatment resource to which the individual was judicially committed; and

(5) Date of birth of the individual judicially committed or adjudicated as a mental defective, if such information has been provided to the clerk.

(d) The information in subdivisions (c)(1) through (c)(5) above, the confidentiality of which is protected by other statutes or regulations, shall be maintained as confidential and not subject to public inspection pursuant to the provisions of such statutes or regulations, except for such use as may be necessary in the conduct of any proceedings pursuant to §§ 39-17-1316, 39-17-1353 and 39-17-1354.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 16-15-303, is amended by adding the following new section thereto:

(g)

(1) For purposes of this subsection (g):

(A) "Adjudication as a mental defective or adjudicated as a mental defective" means:

(i) A determination by a court in this state that a person, as a result of marked subnormal intelligence, mental illness, incompetency, condition or disease:

(a) Is a danger to such person or to others;  
or

(b) Lacks the ability to contract or manage  
such person's own affairs due to mental defect;

(ii) A finding of insanity by a court in a criminal  
proceeding; or

(iii) A finding that a person is incompetent to stand  
trial or is found not guilty by reason of insanity pursuant to  
50a and 72b of the Uniform Code of Military Justice,  
codified in 10 U.S.C. §§ 850a, 876b;

(B) "Judicial commitment to a mental institution" means a  
judicially ordered involuntary admission to a private or state  
hospital or treatment resource in proceedings conducted pursuant  
to title 33, chapter 6 or title 33, chapter 7;

(C) "Mental institution" means a mental health facility,  
mental hospital, sanitarium, psychiatric facility, and any other  
facility that provides diagnoses by a licensed professional of  
mental retardation or mental illness, including but not limited to, a  
psychiatric ward in a general hospital;

(D) "Treatment resource" means any public or private  
facility, service, or program providing treatment or rehabilitation  
services for mental illness or serious emotional disturbance,  
including, but not limited to, detoxification centers, hospitals,  
community mental health centers, clinics or programs, halfway  
houses, and rehabilitation centers.

(2) In addition to the duties prescribed in this part, the clerks of  
the general sessions courts wherein commitments to a mental institution  
are ordered pursuant to title 33, chapter 6 or title 33, chapter 7 or persons  
are adjudicated as a mental defective shall collect and report January 1,  
April 1, July 1, and October 1 of every year beginning January 1, 2010,  
information described in subsection (c) regarding individuals who have  
been adjudicated as a mental defective or judicially committed to a mental  
institution after a finding of probable cause pursuant to § 33-6-422 for the  
purposes of complying with the NICS Improvement Amendments Act of  
2007, Public Law 110-180, as enacted and as may be amended in the  
future.

(3) The following information shall be collected and reported to  
the federal bureau of investigation-NICS Index and the department of  
safety, pursuant to subdivision (g)(2):

(A) Complete name and all aliases of the individual  
judicially committed or adjudicated as a mental defective,

including, but not limited to, any names that the individual may have had or currently has by reason of marriage or otherwise;

(B) Case or docket number of the judicial commitment or the adjudication as a mental defective;

(C) Date judicial commitment ordered or adjudication as a mental defective was made;

(D) Private or state hospital or treatment resource to which the individual was judicially committed; and

(E) Date of birth of the individual judicially committed or adjudicated as a mental defective, if such information has been provided to the clerk.

(4) The information in subdivisions (g)(3)(A) through (g)(3)(E) above, the confidentiality of which is protected by other statutes or regulations, shall be maintained as confidential and not subject to public inspection pursuant to the provisions of such statutes or regulations, except for such use as may be necessary in the conduct of any proceedings pursuant to §§ 39-17-1316, 39-17-1353 and 39-17-1354.

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 16, Chapter 16, Part 1, is amended by adding the following new section thereto:

§ 16-16-120.

(a) For purposes of this section:

(1) "Adjudication as a mental defective or adjudicated as a mental defective" means:

(A) A determination by a court in this state that a person, as a result of marked subnormal intelligence, mental illness, incompetency, condition or disease:

(i) Is a danger to such person or to others;  
or

(ii) Lacks the ability to contract or manage such person's own affairs due to mental defect;

(B) A finding of insanity by a court in a criminal proceeding; or

(C) A finding that a person is incompetent to stand trial or is found not guilty by reason of insanity pursuant to 50a and 72b of the Uniform Code of Military Justice, codified in 10 U.S.C. §§ 850a, 876b;

(2) "Judicial commitment to a mental institution" means a judicially ordered involuntary admission to a private or state hospital or treatment resource in proceedings conducted pursuant to title 33, chapter 6 or title 33, chapter 7;

(3) "Mental institution" means a mental health facility, mental hospital, sanitarium, psychiatric facility, and any other facility that provides diagnoses by a licensed professional of mental retardation or mental illness, including but not limited to, a psychiatric ward in a general hospital;

(4) "Treatment resource" means any public or private facility, service, or program providing treatment or rehabilitation services for mental illness or serious emotional disturbance, including, but not limited to, detoxification centers, hospitals, community mental health centers, clinics or programs, halfway houses, and rehabilitation centers.

(b) Those county or probate courts wherein commitments to a mental institution are ordered pursuant to title 33, chapter 6 or title 33, chapter 7 or persons are adjudicated as a mental defective shall enter a standing and continuing order instructing the clerk to collect and report January 1, April 1, July 1, and October 1 of every year beginning January 1, 2010, information described in subsection (c) regarding individuals who have been adjudicated as a mental defective or judicially committed to a mental institution for the purposes of complying with the NICS Improvement Amendments Act of 2007, Public Law 110-180, as enacted and as may be amended in the future.

(c) The following information shall be collected and reported to the federal bureau of investigation-NICS Index and the department of safety, pursuant to subsection (b):

(1) Complete name and all aliases of the individual judicially committed or adjudicated as a mental defective, including, but not limited to, any names that the individual may have had or currently has by reason of marriage or otherwise;

(2) Case or docket number of the judicial commitment or the adjudication as a mental defective;

(3) Date judicial commitment ordered or adjudication as a mental defective was made;

(4) Private or state hospital or treatment resource to which the individual was judicially committed; and

(5) Date of birth of the individual judicially committed or adjudicated as a mental defective, if such information has been provided to the clerk.

(d) The information in subdivisions (c)(1) through (c)(5) above, the confidentiality of which is protected by other statutes or regulations, shall be maintained as confidential and not subject to public inspection pursuant to the provisions of such statutes or regulations, except for such use as may be necessary in the conduct of any proceedings pursuant to §§ 39-17-1316, 39-17-1353 and 39-17-1354.

SECTION 5. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 33-3-115, is amended by deleting the section in its entirety and substituting instead the following:

§ 33-3-115.

(a) Any clerk of court that maintains records of an adjudication as a mental defective or a judicial commitment to a mental institution pursuant to chapter 6 or chapter 7 shall, in accordance with the procedures outlined in title 16, disclose the following information set out in subsection (b) solely for the purposes of complying with §§ 39-17-1316, 39-17-1351, 39-17-1352 and the NICS Improvement Amendments Act of 2007, Public Law 110-180, as enacted and as may be amended in the future.

(b) The following information shall be collected and reported to the federal bureau of investigation-NICS Index, and the department of safety, pursuant to subsection (b):

(1) Complete name and all aliases of the individual judicially committed or adjudicated as a mental defective, including, but not limited to, any names that the individual may have had or currently has by reason of marriage or otherwise;

(2) Case or docket number of the judicial commitment or the adjudication as a mental defective;

(3) Date judicial commitment ordered or adjudication as a mental defective was made;

(4) Private or state hospital or treatment resource to which the individual was judicially committed; and

(5) Date of birth of the individual judicially committed or adjudicated as a mental defective, if such information has been provided to the clerk.

(c) The information in subdivisions (b)(1) through (b)(5) above, the confidentiality of which is protected by other statutes or regulations, shall be maintained as confidential and not subject to public inspection pursuant to the provisions of such statutes or regulations, except for such use as may be necessary in the conduct of any proceedings pursuant to §§ 39-17-1316, 39-17-1353 and 39-17-1354.



(d) For purposes of this section, the following definitions shall apply:

(1) "Judicial commitment to a mental institution" means a judicially ordered involuntary admission to a private or state hospital or treatment resource in proceedings conducted pursuant to title 33, chapter 6 or title 33, chapter 7;

(2) "Adjudication as a mental defective or adjudicated as a mental defective" means:

(A) A determination by a court in this state that a person, as a result of marked subnormal intelligence, mental illness, incompetency, condition or disease:

(i) Is a danger to such person or to others;  
or

(ii) Lacks the ability to contract or manage such person's own affairs due to mental defect;

(B) A finding of insanity by a court in a criminal proceeding; or

(C) A finding that a person is incompetent to stand trial or is found not guilty by reason of insanity pursuant to 50a and 72b of the Uniform Code of Military Justice, codified in 10 U.S.C. §§ 850a, 876b;

SECTION 6. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 33, Chapter 3, Part 1, is amended by adding the following new section thereto:

§ 33-3-116.

A violation of §§ 33-3-103 -- 33-3-115 is a Class C misdemeanor.

SECTION 7. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 33, Chapter 6, Part 4, is amended by deleting the section in its entirety and substituting the following:

§ 33-6-413.

(a) The chief officer, upon admission of the person, shall notify the judge of the general sessions court where the hospital or treatment resource is located, by telephone or in person, and shall provide the information from the certificates of need and such other information as the court may desire, that is in the possession of the hospital or treatment resource, bearing on the condition of the person. If the general sessions court finds that there is probable cause to believe that the defendant is subject to admission to a hospital or treatment resource under § 33-6-403, the court may order the defendant admitted for not more than five (5) days from the date of the order, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and

holidays, for emergency diagnosis, evaluation and treatment pending a probable cause hearing under § 33-6-422. If the court does not order the defendant admitted, the defendant shall be released.

(b) The court shall cause a notice containing the information described in this subsection (b) to be mailed to the defendant, the defendant's attorney, the chief officer of the hospital or treatment resource, and the parent, legal guardian, conservator, spouse or adult next of kin of the defendant. The notice shall contain the following information:

(1) The time and place of the probable cause hearing;

(2) The defendant's rights, including but not limited to, right to counsel, right to waive a hearing, right to confront and cross-examine witnesses, right to be protected from compelled self-incrimination;

(3) The status of the defendant if judicially committed, including but not limited to:

(A) The person's prohibition of purchasing a firearm under § 39-17-1316;

(B) The person's prohibition of obtaining a handgun carry permit under § 39-17-1351; and

(C) The suspension or revocation of a handgun carry permit under § 39-17-1352 once judicially committed to a hospital or treatment resource pursuant to this title;

(4) The person's right to appeal the prohibition against purchasing a firearm pursuant to § 39-17-1316; and

(5) The person's right to appeal the denial of a handgun carry permit pursuant to §§ 39-17-1352, 39-17-1353, and 39-17-1354.

SECTION 8. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 39-17-1301, is amended by adding the following new appropriately designated subdivisions thereto:

( ) "Adjudication as a mental defective or adjudicated as a mental defective" means:

(A) A determination by a court in this state that a person, as a result of marked subnormal intelligence, mental illness, incompetency, condition or disease:

(i) Is a danger to such person or to others; or

(ii) Lacks the ability to contract or manage such person's own affairs due to mental defect;

(B) A finding of insanity by a court in a criminal proceeding; or

(C) A finding that a person is incompetent to stand trial or is found not guilty by reason of insanity pursuant to 10 U.S.C. §§ 850a, 876b;

( ) "Judicial commitment to a mental institution" means a judicially ordered involuntary admission to a private or state hospital or treatment resource in proceedings conducted pursuant to title 33, chapter 6 or title 33, chapter 7;

( ) "Mental institution" means a mental health facility, mental hospital, sanitarium, psychiatric facility, and any other facility that provides diagnoses by a licensed professional of mental retardation or mental illness, including but not limited to, a psychiatric ward in a general hospital;

SECTION 9. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 39-17-1316(a)(1), is amended by deleting the existing subdivision in its entirety and substituting instead the following:

(a)

(1) Any person appropriately licensed by the federal government may stock and sell firearms to persons desiring such; however, sales to persons who have been convicted of the offense of stalking, as prohibited by § 39-17-315, who are addicted to alcohol, who are ineligible to receive firearms under 18 U.S.C. § 922, or who have been judicially committed to a mental institution pursuant to title 33 or adjudicated as a mental defective are prohibited. For purposes of this subdivision (a)(1), the offense of violation of a protective order as prohibited by § 39-13-113 shall be considered a "misdemeanor crime of domestic violence" for purposes of 18 U.S.C. § 921.

SECTION 10. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 39-17-1351(c)(12), is amended by deleting the subdivision in its entirety and substituting instead the following:

(12) That the applicant has not been adjudicated as a mental defective; has not been judicially committed to or hospitalized in a mental institution pursuant to title 33; has not had a court appoint a conservator for the applicant by reason of a mental defect; has not been judicially determined to be disabled by reason of mental illness, developmental disability or other mental incapacity; and has not, within seven (7) years from the date of application, been found by a court to pose an immediate substantial likelihood of serious harm, as defined in title 33, chapter 6, part 5, because of mental illness;

SECTION 11. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 39-17-1351(i), is amended by deleting the subsection in its entirety and substituting instead the following:

(i) The department shall deny a permit application if it determines from information contained in the criminal history record checks conducted by the

Tennessee and federal bureaus of investigation pursuant to subsection (h), from information received from the clerks of court regarding individuals adjudicated as a mental defective or judicially committed to a mental institution pursuant to title 33, or from other information that comes to the attention of the department, that the applicant does not meet the eligibility requirements of this section. The department shall not be required to confirm the applicant's eligibility for a permit beyond the information received from the Tennessee and federal bureaus of investigation, the clerks of court and the sheriffs, if any.

SECTION 12. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 39-17-1352 (a), is amended by adding the following as a new subdivision:

(8) Has been judicially committed to a mental institution pursuant to title 33, chapter 6 or title 33, chapter 7 or has been adjudicated as a mental defective.

SECTION 13. This act shall take effect January 1, 2010, the public welfare requiring it.

**PASSED: June 16, 2009**



KENT WILLIAMS, SPEAKER  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



RON RAMSEY  
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

**APPROVED this 1st day of July 2009**



PHIL BREDESEN, GOVERNOR